

عذرا صحتي افسد

U.N. envoy discusses Cyprus

NICOSIA, March 4 (AFP) — United Nations envoy Perez de Cuellar discussed the forthcoming resumption of negotiations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities at a meeting here today with Greek Cypriot negotiator Tassos Papadopoulos. Mr. de Cuellar called the meeting useful and said the U.N. wanted the negotiations -- which will begin in Vienna under U.N. auspices on March 31 -- to be substantial and extensive. Mr. Papadopoulos commented that the Vienna agenda should ensure constructive talks which brought progress. He called for a state structure on the island which would safeguard the country's unity, its two-community character and the principle of the equality of citizens.

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African opposition members save Smith's land tenure bill

JALISBURY, March 4 (Agencies) — Three African opposition members today saved Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith's government from almost certain political defeat over the repeal of controversial race laws.

It was a narrow victory -- Mr. Smith scraped through with the minimum 44 votes required to pass the land tenure amendment bill -- but political sources said it had greatly strengthened his position as leader of the breakaway British colony.

Earlier today, parliament was adjourned so that two front P.S. -- Mines Minister Ian Wilson and backbencher Jack Juristia, both recovering from heart attacks -- could be brought from their sickbeds to vote. One of them arrived in the chamber in a wheelchair. Foreign Minister Pieter van der Byl was recalled from a European trip.

The government, however, survived the vote only with the aid of six black votes: three black deputy ministers and three black opposition members. Three backbenchers also joined the government ranks when the House of Assembly divided.

Twelve members of the Rhodesian Front voted against the measure which they said threatened white security. The remaining 10 black members of parliament did not vote; they talked out before the division bells rang.

The issue which divided the Rhodesian Front more deeply than at any time in its 15 years, in power was Mr. Smith's amended changes in the Land Apportionment Act which divides Rhodesia equally between 270,000 whites and six million blacks.

The amendment to the act meant that whites would henceforth exclusively own or occupy less than one half of one per cent of Rhodesia's 39 million hectares (93 million acres).

The bill is vital to Mr. Smith's plan to remove the country's race laws and achieve a political settlement with "moderate" Rhodesian Africans.

Mr. Smith's personal position within the party. But observers noted that, despite the last minute lobbying he had been confident of the outcome, leading to speculation that he already knew what support he could expect from African opposition members.

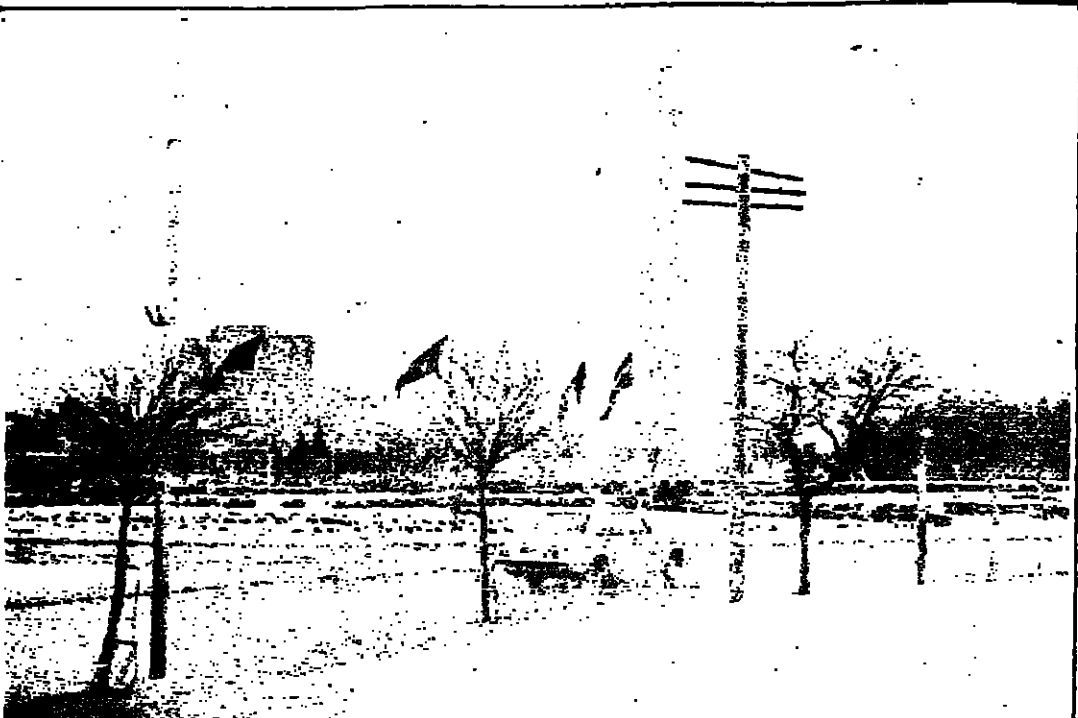
The further of the 12 dissidents is not clear. Observers said disciplinary action might be considered in view of their refusal to accept the party whip for today's vote.

While the vote was being taken all 12 included former Defence Minister Reginald Cowper and former junior minister in the premier's office Ted Sutton-Pryce -- sat together on the government backbench.

There is speculation that they may form themselves into an opposition group under a new name.

In his closing speech before today's vote, Lands Minister Mark Partridge attacked the 12 for their stand and said they had not come up with any practical alternative legislation.

Parliament was later adjourned until June 21 after the third reading of the land tenure amendment bill.



SNOW COVERS THE LAND -- A lone driver is seen at the Ministry of Interior Circle Friday morning as snow covers the ground from the storm that hit Jordan over the past two days.

Shiite Imam Sadr says

Situation in south Lebanon "tragic beyond imagination"

BEIRUT, March 4 (R) — The spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shiite Moslem community, Imam Moussa Sadr, today described the situation in the south of the country as "tragic beyond imagination."

The imam, who stands at the head of a community which constitutes about a quarter of Lebanon's population, was speaking to newsmen after a meeting with President Elias Sarkis which lasted 75 minutes.

He described the president as deeply concerned with the situation in the south, and said it is the main reason why Mr. Sarkis has decided to attend an Arab summit meeting in Cairo.

The imam expressed the hope that political leaders would respond to a call to put an end to fighting in the south within the next 48 hours, before the president leaves for Cairo.

President Sarkis has had a number of contacts over the past few days in order to set up a 10-day halt to hostilities within the next 48 hours, informed sources said.

President Sarkis yesterday asked U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker to approach Israel on the subject.

According to political sources, if President Sarkis can secure a ceasefire before Sunday, he will be able to ask Arab leaders in Cairo to shoulder their responsibilities on the question of southern Lebanon, an issue which the Lebanese administration believes is an Arab rather than Lebanese affair.

"Speedy action," the imam said, "is needed to save the innocent and stop the continuing tragedy of south Lebanon."

"Refugees are streaming out of the south in every direction," he said. They are crowding into every available space, and some are even having to live in cars.

The imam said that for many of the people of the south this is the third time in recent years that they have had to flee from their homes.

"In the early 1970s, southern villages were virtually emptied as a result of Israeli raids into the region. They returned to the south during the war in the north, but regions to which they had fled."

The imam said there are now 120,000 displaced people in the country, though he did not say how many of these came from the south.

He accused Israel of "seizing the opportunity to interfere and occupy in south Lebanon," and said that Israel hopes to prevent the rebuilding of Lebanon and the country's return to peace.

"Israel is exploiting Lebanese and Arab differences without a word of blame from the world community," he said.

"Israel is using the crisis in Lebanon as a powerful card against the Arabs while it continues to ignore the situation in the south regardless of the human tragedy involved," the Shiite leader accused.

He called for a unified Arab stand supporting the entry of peace.

The Arab deterrent force into south Lebanon, and described Israeli objections to this as "a clear indication of Israel's desire to keep the crisis alive in the south."

In New York, the United Nations truce supervising organization today reported that eleven incidents of shooting across the Israel-Lebanon armistice line took place during the month of February in addition to four crossing violations.

In its latest report published today, it said Israeli forces continued to occupy six positions on the Lebanese side of the line.

It said U.N. observers east of the village of Marouahine reported automatic weapons fire on nine dates in February, including two cases on one day, February 25, "all by Israeli forces," and crossing violations by Israeli forces on Feb. 1 and 26.

Another observer post, southeast of Markaba, reported fire by Israeli forces on Feb. 17. Naqura outstation reported that Israeli naval vessels penetrated Lebanese territorial waters on February 18 up to 12,000 metres.

A U.N. mobile patrol reported a crossing violation by Israeli forces on Feb. 26 and there were 11 overflights by Israeli jet aircraft, the U.N. document said.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli defence Minister Shimon Peres was quoted today as saying that he saw no point in deploying United Nations along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Asked in an interview with the newspaper Yediot Aharonot about such a proposal, made by several leading politicians in Lebanon, Mr. Peres said: "A U.N. force can be useful only in places where quiet reigns, as it is not a calming force but a reporting one."

Afro-Arab F.M.s agree on nationalist causes

CAIRO, March 4 (Agencies) — A strengthening of mutual political support for what will henceforth be known as the "Afro-Arab causes" of Palestine and Southern Africa will be reflected in a political declaration by Arab and African heads of state here next week, reliable sources said today.

Foreign ministers of some 60 Arab and African countries meeting here to prepare for their summit reviewed a draft of the declaration, and machinery for Afro-Arab cooperation, in two closed doors working sessions today, but skirted economic issues.

After several amendments tabled in the morning, the ministers apparently agreed to strengthen the wording of the declaration on some points, particularly relating to joint support for the "front-line countries" of the Middle East and Southern Africa.

The Arab countries, which have since 1973 enjoyed the backing of black Africa for the Arab cause, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (a full member of the Arab League) will formally pledge support for the African liberation movements recognised by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The political declaration and its accompanying action programme, which will form a charter for future Afro-Arab cooperation, will thus be based on full reciprocity, conference sources said.

However, several African delegations intend to press for more than simple reciprocity in the economic field. They want precise commitments for a substantial increase in Arab financial aid.

The Arabs and Africans were divided on the amount of Arab aid to Africa, with ministers trying to reach a compromise between an African request of \$2 billion aid and an Arab offer of \$500 million, informed sources said.

They said the ministers discussed Afro-Arab economic cooperation, including a working paper by Tanzania suggesting Arab economic assistance for African development plans totalling some \$2 billion over four years.

Mauritius told the meeting that Afro-Arab cooperation would be useless without Arab assistance to Africa, the sources said.

African ministers this morning said the Tanzanian proposal would come up for discussion at the afternoon session, but the ministers in fact tackled the much less controversial question of how to organise co-operation between the two groups of nations, putting all economic issues aside until tomorrow.

At today's morning session, the ministers discussed the draft political declaration for the Afro-Arab summit conference.

Carter urged to meet Corvalan

NEW YORK, March 4 (AFP) — The leader of the U.S. Communist Party today urged President Jimmy Carter to meet in the White House with Chilean Communist Party head Luis Corvalan to discuss civil rights in Chile. The request was made in a telegram by U.S. party Secretary General Gus Hall, who said he had invited Mr. Corvalan to the U.S. for a lecture tour. Mr. Hall asked President Carter not to oppose a visa for Mr. Corvalan, at present in the Soviet Union. Mr. Corvalan was arrested shortly after the 1973 coup d'etat in Chile and was held in detention until being exchanged last December for Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky. Mr. Bukovsky met in the White House on Tuesday with President Carter.

Reports feedback on human rights support Vance: Trade an underpinning of Soviet-American detente

WASHINGTON, March 4 (R) — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said today President Carter's recent expression of support for human rights had won a number of countries more sensitive on the issue.

But, he told a news conference here, it was still too early to say if this was a worldwide trend.

He expressed pleasure at the support given to President Carter yesterday in a speech by Britain's newly appointed Foreign Secretary, Dr. David Owen, who pledged that London would also not hesitate to speak frankly on the issue.

Mr. Vance noted Soviet press criticism of the U.S. stand, but said he detected no cooling of Soviet-American relations, or any adverse effect on his country's talks in Moscow on arms control.

"We note a deep and abiding interest of the Soviet leaders in pursuing arms control and other matters. I hope that this will continue," he said.

Mr. Vance said he believed there was detente between the two super powers and hoped it would continue. But he indicated the Carter administration's concern over human rights would be permitted under the rules of the game.

"Detente is arriving at a set of ground rules which permit competition side by side with the resolution of outstanding questions. It is not a simple idea to apply," he said.

close the conclusions when a decision had been made on how to proceed.

The secretary of state also said that he plans to visit Peking later this year for his first direct contact with the Chinese leaders.

Asked about possible military aid to Peking, he told the press conference: "At this point, there is no thought of any military aid to the Chinese, but the whole question of economic relations is one which I would plan to take up at the time of the visit."

"I anticipate it will be before the end of this year, but no date has been set."

Asked about a press report that former President Nixon made a secret agreement on normalising relations with China, Mr. Vance said he had received papers from President Nixon and so far found no indication of any secret understanding.

The letter said leaders of the Jewish emigration movement, many of whom have now left the country, were "paid agents" of the CIA. But it also extended the charge to Dr. and Mrs. Vladimir Slepak and Anatoly Shcharansky, who are still in the Soviet Union.

Documents presented to the court sought to illustrate the party's independence from the Soviet Union and its adherence to democratic ideals.

Spanish Supreme Court hears Communist case

MADRID, March 4. (R) — Lawyers for Spain's outlawed Communist Party went before the Supreme Court today to make its case for legalisation and the right to contest next June's general election.

The party, which has operated underground since the end of the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War, received solid support for its case yesterday from the Italian and French Communist Party leaders, who attended a

two-day Euro-communist summit here.

One of the participants in the two-day Communist meeting which wound up yesterday, Italian party Secretary General Enrico Berlinguer, said before he left for home today that the question of legalising the Spanish Party was important, but one that must be left to Spaniards to decide.

The Spanish party's hopes for legalisation got another boost when it was announced last night that King Juan Carlos would meet Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on the Mediterranean island of Majorca tomorrow.

U.S. diplomats recruiting Soviet dissidents, Izvestia charges

MOSCOW, March 4 (R) — The government newspaper Izvestia said tonight several U.S. diplomats in Moscow were engaged in espionage and alleged that they recruited Soviet dissidents to work for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The charges were issued in an open letter, said to have been written by a repenting Jewish dissident, and in an accompanying article covering almost an entire page of the Kremlin newspaper.

The letter and the article alleged that "several Western correspondents" had been spying, including the recently-exiled George Krinsky of the Associated Press and former Newsweek correspondent Alfred Friendly.

The letter said leaders of the Jewish emigration movement, many of whom have now left the country, were "paid agents" of the CIA. But it also extended the charge to Dr. and Mrs. Vladimir Slepak and Anatoly Shcharansky, who are still in the Soviet Union.

The repenting dissident was named as Dr. Sanya L. Lipavsky, a former chief surgeon at a suburban Moscow hospital. Last year he was still signing dissident petitions and until a month ago he shared an apartment with Mr. Shcharansky.

Another Jewish dissident mentioned was Dr. Alexander Lerner, whose Moscow apartment was searched by police today.

The article alleged that a former first secretary at the U.S. embassy, Mr. Melvin Levitsky, had attempted to recruit Dr. Lipavsky into CIA service.

And it declared that Joseph A. Presel, a first secretary now at the embassy, was carrying out "a special mission."

Dr. Lipavsky's letter said Mr. Presel told him he had come to the Soviet Union "to shake the system to its foundations."

The Izvestia blast was seen as part of a campaign in response to Western charges of violations of human rights by the Soviet Union -- and particularly the President Carter's stance on the issue.

In his letter, Dr. Lipavsky said the Jewish dissidents he had known for five years "had one platform and one leader -- American intelligence and foreign anti-Soviet organisations."

His letter added: "I became convinced that under the mask of 'fighters for human rights' were adventurers and money-grubbers whose main aim is self-advertisement to ensure themselves a constant income abroad by means of organising provocations and aiding reactionary circles in the West."

Dr. Lipavsky said he wanted to call on the United Nations not to allow itself to be misled.

The letter said that Mr. Levitsky, who now works in the State Department in Washington, had sought to persuade Dr. Lipavsky to recruit a friend who was chief of a scientific research centre near Moscow into working for the CIA.

Mr. Shcharansky and Dr. Slepak, two of the Jewish activists identified in the letter as having contacts with American diplomats, are members of a group monitoring how the Kremlin applies human rights provisions of the Helsinki European security conference.

Two of the group's leaders -- Dr. Yuri Orlov and Alexander Ginsburg -- have recently been arrested. A former member of the group now in Israel, Dr. Vitaly Rubin, was said in the letter to have acted as a link between American agents and the dissidents.

Dr. Lipavsky's letter said that soon after he became associated with the activists he realised that they had "close contacts with the officials of certain foreign powers" and with correspondents accredited in Moscow.

"The most regular contacts were with officials of the U.S. embassy, Melvin Levitsky and Josef Presel, and also with the American correspondents Peter Osmos, Alfred Friendly and others," the letter added.

Mr. Friendly, who left Moscow last summer at the end of his assignment, has already been accused in the Soviet press of working for the CIA and this charge was repeated by Izvestia. Mr. Osmos is the Washington Post correspondent in Moscow.

Izvestia printed what it said were instructions prepared for Dr. Lipavsky by the CIA. It quoted from a document telling him where to leave his reports in Moscow for an agent to pick-up.

"We could provide other documentary evidence on the activities of certain 'diplomats' in the American embassy in the USSR," Izvestia said. "They are up to their neck in gathering espionage information and recruiting agents from among 'dissidents'."

"It must be said that in this employ are engaged not only certain American diplomats but also several Western correspondents accredited in Moscow," the newspaper added.

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Point to be made

Saudi Arabia has recently reacted harshly to what it considers to be foreign price-fixing and collusion in inflating costs for some of the large Saudi industrialisation projects that have been put up for international tender. Several billion dollars worth of desalination and electrification project tender bids were unceremoniously rejected by the Saudis last month with the charge that the foreign companies (American, European and Japanese) had listed costs at far above what the Saudis themselves had estimated. In other words, the Saudis think the international companies are trying to get as much money out of them as they can while the Middle East region appears to have its spare cash.

The Saudi Arabians are now talking to their Gulf neighbours -- starting with Bahrain -- in a bid to face the international companies with a united front of states that will not put up with the alleged price-fixing. In principle, the Saudi move is astute and probably necessary in order to make a point. But the charges of collusion and price inflation are serious, and to go from accusing the foreign companies to blacklisting them throughout the Gulf oil-producing states is a step that should be taken with extreme caution.

There is probably no question that the companies who submit tender bids have added a million dollars here and a million there. Part of this is for good reason, such as inflationary pressures both within the Middle East and the industrial states. But part of it is for no other reason than a fertile sense of greed and opportunism. The Saudis need to be diligent in determining the mix of factors that causes tender bids to be inflated, and then to strike hard when the culprit is identified. A simple blacklisting technique could backfire. The foreign companies themselves, with the support of their obviously concerned governments, are not helpless.

The Saudis should come up with a technique that hits the companies where it hurts them most -- in their balance sheets. But this would be more effective if it were done through the established systems of doing business, that is through the contracting and tendering procedure itself, than if it were to be done simply by coming up with blacklists of companies. The Saudis and their Gulf neighbours should use the contract carrot approach, rather than the blacklist stick, to make the point that they are right in insisting must be made.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

In its editorial Friday, AL DUSTOUR said the Afro-Arab foreign ministers, who began their meeting in Cairo Thursday to prepare an agenda for next week's Afro-Arab summit, will concentrate on two basic points: First, a programme of Afro-Arab economic cooperation and second, a political statement to be issued at the end of the summit.

It is clear, AL DUSTOUR goes on, that the question of economic cooperation is the core of the Afro-Arab summit. Discussion should avoid two important hazards: Bargaining over the amount of money the Arab oil producing states will contribute to strengthen the economies of the poor African states, and linking the courageous African stand against Israel with Arab financial contributions to bolster African economies.

The concept of "reward" is, understandably, the most hurting to the feelings of our "African brothers". They themselves have expressed their rejection of the idea. Therefore, the concept of "joint destiny" and comprehensive and mutual cooperation remains the only starting point for Afro-Arab understanding and interdependence, both economically and politically, the paper states.

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United opposition hits hard on Bhutto's political record

ISLAMABAD, March 4, (R). -- The loss of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, in the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war has been revived as an issue in the general election campaign here.

Leaders of the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) -- a nine-party opposition front -- are blaming Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for the break-up of what was the world's largest Moslem nation with a population of 130 million people.

They have threatened to put Mr. Bhutto on trial if the alliance gains power in the March 7 elections. And PNA leader Asghar Khan has even gone so far as to say the Prime Minister could be hanged for his role in the breakup.

Seven weeks ago, when Mr. Bhutto announced the elections, there seemed to be chance of a PNA victory. But now, since they have combined their forces, the opposition have gained momentum and have a chance of winning.

The PNA is charging that Mr. Bhutto forced East Pakistan into a secessionist war -- the Bengali-speaking eastern wing broke away after the defeat of the West Pakistan army by Indian troops.

The alliance leaders contend that Pakistan would not have been divided if Mr. Bhutto had agreed to a political compromise with the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his Awami League.

With Mr. Bhutto's steadfast refusal to compromise with Sheikh Mujib on sharing power, General Yahya postponed the inauguration of the assembly.

This provoked an armed uprising by Awami League supporters in East Pakistan and General Yahya sent in the army from West Pakistan.

Fighting intensified over the next few months until the Indian army intervened on the side of Sheikh Mujib and forced the West Pakistan troops to surrender on December 16.

General Yahya handed over power to Mr. Bhutto, then Foreign Minister, on December 20, 1971.

Mr. Bhutto accused the present opposition of having collaborated with Sheikh Mujib and his six-point programme for provincial autonomy.

In hard-hitting attacks on the opposition, Mr. Bhutto has labelled some of the PNA leaders as anti-state, and said that if the Alliance is voted to power Pakistan will face a worse crisis than that of 1971 within six months.

The East Pakistan debate has heated up since retired General Amir Abdullah Khan "tiger" Niazi, the man who signed the surrender in Dacca, East Pakistan, has taken the PNA platform to speak out against Mr. Bhutto.

General Niazi, who was army commander in East Pakistan, said the surrender was a

political defeat, not a military one.

He said he only surrendered because he received orders from the high command. Then he resisted the orders for some days.

The general said Pakistan could have gotten out of the war gracefully if Mr. Bhutto had not torn up a Polish resolution in the U.N. Security Council calling for an immediate ceasefire, and withdrawal of troops.

Mr. Bhutto has insisted it was his own notes which he tore up not the Polish resolution.

He said General Niazi had humiliated Pakistan by his surrender, which, Mr. Bhutto added, was the result of the army commander's bad planning and lack of foresight.

General Tikka Khan, army chief-of-staff at the time of the war and now defence adviser to Mr. Bhutto, was called into battle and denounced General Niazi as largely responsible for the military defeat.

Some political analysts say the public mud-slinging over the 1971 war could hurt the morale of the armed forces, which would rather forget that unhappy chapter of the East Pakistan debacle.

In 1972 Mr. Bhutto commissioned a judicial investigation but did not release the findings because he said they would damage Pakistan's relations with unnamed foreign countries.

Absurdity's loophole By Bassam Bishuti

Ethiopia sees red

The Red Sea is an Arab sea; the sea is a sea; therefore, the Arabs are red. Which is why Ethiopia gets angry whichever way it turns.

Presidents Anwar Sadat of Egypt, Hafez Assad of Syria and Jaafar Nimeiri of Sudan issued a statement winding up their Khartoum summit a few days ago in which they described the Red Sea as an Arab lake. Now, of course, the Red Sea is not a "lake", but what's a geographical error between friends?

But, also, the Red Sea is not, strictly speaking, Arab. Granted that most of the countries which have coastlines on this sea are Arab, not all of them are. Beginning at the top -- looking at a map from down under -- the countries which share the Red Sea's coastline are: Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, both Yemens and Somalia. All these are Arab countries; registered in the Arab League Incorporated.

However, there remains three countries which have a share in the sea's coastline and which are not, accurately speaking, Arab. These are Djibouti (the French protectorate of the Afars and Issas), Israel and the Ethiopian Province of Eritrea.

Djibouti will soon gain its independence and is most likely to declare itself Arab, so that's no problem.

Israel is, of course, stolen Arab territory. Even if Israel is never recovered for the Arabs it only has a few kilometres of coastline on the Red Sea at the so-called Port of Eilat. And what's a few kilometres between friends?

Which leaves us with the core of the problem: Eritrea.

Now Eritrea is an Ethiopian province which has been militantly fighting for its

independence with close help from the Arabs. Its culture and religion is Arab. Therefore, it is Arab. So the Red Sea is an Arab sea.

But Ethiopia is angry. Without going too far into geopolitics, it is enough to look at the map to see that without the possession of Eritrea, Ethiopia cannot breathe fresh sea water -- Eritrea is Ethiopia's only outlet to the sea. And it seems the Ethiopians cannot do without swimming; it probably keeps them off remembering how hungry they always are. But that cannot be correct for, on grounds of expert medical advice, swimming makes you hungry. But what's medical advice between friends?

So Ethiopia cannot accept to lose possession of its only outlet to the sea -- swimming or no swimming. It, therefore, declares, through a Foreign Ministry spokesman, that it finds itself "surprised" and "concerned" that new editions of geopolitical text-books are being published. The spokesman is not surprised, mind you, that the new editions call the Red Sea a "lake" but that they call it "Arab".

The spokesman forgets that charity begins at home -- his "concern", surely, must be expressed for his Eritreans who don't want him. Instead, the man expresses his "concern" over the fact that the Arabs are more charitable -- they do want the poor, war-torn, Eritreans so much that they've declared them Arab. Otherwise, how could the Red Sea be an Arab sea? If it were not so, the statement would be a political error and a political error, according to the best etiquette manuals, is definitely something between friends.

Aswan dam's resultant problems balance out the benefits

CAIRO, March 4, (R). -- The River Nile has been Egypt's life blood throughout the nation's 5,000 year history, and now 90 per cent of the country's 40 million people are crowded into the Delta and onto the arable strips along the river.

Since pharaonic times elaborate irrigation schemes have been tried, but none more grandiose than the building of the Aswan High Dam under the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The dam, inaugurated in 1971, brought extra water for extra crops. It also covered good land with salt and brought new diseases to farmers. Its effects are still being studied, but today as developing countries consider large irrigation schemes they must also consider the lessons of the Aswan High Dam.

At the time of its construction a rosy picture was painted of vast amounts of hydraulic power and a garden of Eden flowering in a desert irrigated by the tamed waters of the Nile.

The realities have been rather less inspiring.

Paradoxically, one of the biggest problems has been over-irrigation. The Egyptian peasant farming along the Nile now has an endless supply of water, and he uses too much.

This has led to serious water-logging and heavy salinity. The periodic Nile floods before the dam's construction were highly destructive, but they did flush the irrigation canals of the inevitable salt deposits.

Part of the answer is to build a new drainage system to carry the extra water away, and action is being taken. The World Bank is funding two projects which will eventually drain about a quarter of Egypt's 2.3 million hectares (5.7 million acres) of arable land.

Other smaller projects are being financed by Western countries including the United States and France.

Meanwhile every year the threat grows that peasants will see their fields covered with a thin, white mantle of salt -- to all intents and purposes agriculturally dead.

Already, according to unofficial estimates, some of Egypt's best land below the dam has become sufficiently saline to reduce agricultural productivity by as much as 50 per cent.

But there are positive aspects too. The dam has meant enough water is now available to cultivate 300,000 hectare (750,000 acres) three times year instead of only once.

Cotton, Egypt's biggest export, is now safe from natural disasters such as flooding drought.

In 1975 more than half Egypt's arable land would have been flooded without the dam and in the dry years of 1967 and 1973 the nation was saved from drought by the dam.

According to some experts Egypt would have been better advised to add 10 medium-sized dams, on the lines of the six ready built there at the existing 111 metre (364 foot) Aswan Dam.

Similarly in towns along Nile sewage systems were finally flushed by the regis floods. Now some are becoming clogged, and rats, once away, now thrive.

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| (On 856 KHZ) | 14:10 Radio magazine |
| 7:00 Morning melodies | 14:30 Good vibrations |
| 7:30 News | 15:00 Concert hour |
| 7:40 News reports | 16:00 Old favourites |
| 8:00 Sign off | 16:30 Easy listening |
| 10:00 Listeners choice | 17:00 Jordan weekly |
| 11:00 My kind of music | 17:30 Pop session |
| 11:30 Catch the words | 18:00 News summary |
| 11:45 Arab scientists | 18:05 15 weekly |
| 12:00 Pop session | 18:15 Music |
| 13:00 News summary | 18:30 Varieties |
| 13:05 Pop session | 19:00 News |
| 14:00 News | 19:10 Music |

EMERGENCIES

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Doctors: | pharmacies in Amman and |
| Amman: | Irbid. The Jordan Times apolo- |
| Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil | gies for this omission. |
| (56294) | |
| Walid Nabulsi (37814) | Zarga: |
| Irbid: | Andalos |
| Fakhri Sweileh | Shaker |
| Zarga: | Taxis: |
| Mustapha Fayyad | Neel (44433) |
| Pharmacies: | Tariq (23024) |
| Amman: | Jerusalem (39655) |
| No details were available on | Ahram (63911) |

AMMAN AIRPORT

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Arrivals: | 8:00 Aqaba |
| 8:20 Dubai (Alitalia) | 8:00 Beirut |
| 8:25 Muscat, Doha | 8:00 Tripoli, Badana, Jeddah |
| 8:25 Kuwait | |
| 8:45 Karachi, Dubai | 8:45 Beirut (MEA) |
| 8:50 Tehran | 8:45 Cairo (EA) |
| 9:50 Aqaba | 9:05 Rome (Alitalia) |
| 10:30 Beirut | 10:30 Cairo |
| 11:35 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI) | 11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam |
| 16:30 Damascus | 11:30 Vienna, Frankfurt, Copenhagen |
| 17:00 Cairo | 12:00 London |
| 19:40 Beirut (MEA) | 12:00 Rome, Paris |
| 19:50 London (BA) | 13:30 Jeddah (SDI) |
| Departures: | 14:00 Damascus |
| 6:10 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa) | 18:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai |
| | 20:35 Rawalpindi (BA) |

BBC RADIO

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| GMT | 13:00 News; Commentary |
| 05:00 News; Press Review | 13:15 Business and Industry |
| 05:15 Letterbox | 13:30 A City and its Music |
| 05:30 Music from Scotland | 14:00 News |
| 05:45 The World Today | 14:09 Book Choice |
| 06:00 News; Press Review | 14:15 Strike up the Band |
| 06:30 Bob Holmes Requests | 14:30 Terry Wogan's LP Show-case |
| 07:00 News | 15:00 Radio Newsreel |
| 07:15 From the Weeklies | 15:15 Saturday Special |
| 07:30 Music from Scotland | 16:00 News; Commentary |
| 07:45 Letter from London | 16:15 Saturday Special |
| 07:55 A Musical Dictionary | 17:00 News Summary |
| 08:00 News; Reflections | 17:02 Saturday Special |
| 08:15 Europa | 17:45 Sports Round-up |
| 08:30 Doritay Pepe | 18:00 News |
| 08:00 News; Press Review | 18:15 Radio Newsreel |
| 09:15 The World Today | 18:30 Theatre of the Air |
| 09:30 Financial News | 19:30 Doritay Pepe |
| 09:45 Come to the Operetta | 20:00 News; Commentary |
| 10:15 Scotland '77 | 20:30 Just a Minute |
| 10:30 Matthew on Music | 21:00 Money, Money, Money |
| 11:00 News | 21:15 Command Performance |
| 11:15 Europa | 22:00 Books and Writers |
| 11:30 Lord Peter Wimsey: Clouds of Witness | 22:00 News |
| 12:00 Radio Newsreel | 22:09 Music Now |
| 12:15 Take It or Leave It | 22:45 The Week in Wales |
| 12:45 Sports Round-up | 23:00 News; Commentary |

VOICE OF AMERICA

| | |
|--|---|
| GMT | Stories: News Summary |
| 03:00 The Breakfast Show : News | 18:30 Country Music USA |
| to on the hour and 28 min. | 19:00 News and Topical Reports |
| 06:30 after each hour. | 19:15 Letters from Listeners |
| 17:00 News | 19:30 New York, New York |
| 17:15 This Week | 20:00 Special English: News Words and their Stories |
| 17:30 Press Conference USA | 20:15 Music USA (Jazz) |
| 18:00 Special English: News Words and their Stories. Feature : Short | 21:00 News |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Ambulance (government) | Tel. 75111 |
| Civil defence rescue | " 24391-4 |
| Fire headquarters | " 22090 |
| First aid, fire, police | " 19 |
| Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) | " 36381-2 |
| Municipal water service (emergency) | " 37111-3 |
| Police headquarters | " 39141 |
| Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help | " 21111, 37777 |

Cultural Centres

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| American Centre (USIS) | Tel. 41520 |
| British Council | " 36147-8 |
| French Cultural Centre | " 37009 |
| Goethe Institute | " 41983 |
| Soviet Cultural Centre | " 44203 |
| Amman Municipal Library | " 38111 |

محضر الاجتماع

The day that now hit the city



Heavy rain forecast for today

AMMAN (JNA). — Snow covered all northern and central highland areas in Jordan Friday, while rain fell in most other areas.

Meteorological Department officials expect this cold wave to ease up Saturday and temperatures to gradually rise. A cloudy atmosphere will prevail. Showers are expected throughout the country.

Temperatures ranged between 5 degrees C in Amman and 18 degrees C in Aqaba.

The department explained that the low pressure belt has now moved to the east of Turkey. This will result in heavy rain, especially in highland areas. Consequently, the department warns that the snow will melt causing torrents of water to flow down to low areas. Furthermore, visibility will be bad over most of the kingdom.

Labour team leaves today for meeting

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan's delegation to the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) meeting in Alexandria Sunday leaves here for Egypt Saturday.

The 10-day meet is scheduled to discuss ways of developing vocational training and labour movements in the Arab World. The conferees will also discuss the organisation's participation at the International Labour Conference to be held in June.

They will elect a new ALO director general. Jordan has nominated its Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Mr. Najl Abdul Aziz, for this post.

The Jordanian delegation includes Minister of Labour Issam Aljouni, Mr. Abdul Aziz, Director of the Amman Chamber of Industry Ali Dajani and Jordan Labour Union Secretary General Shaher Majall.

Agriculture official arrives for talks

AMMAN (JNA). — The Director General of the Arab League Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Dr. Mohammad Muhib Zaki, arrived here Friday noon on a four-day visit.

During his stay here, he will hold talks with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Minister of Agriculture Salah Jum'a on how to support and develop a number of agricultural projects here.

On arrival at Ramtha from Damascus, Dr. Zaki said the aim of his visit is to discuss research work carried out by the AOAD in Jordan and to allow him to get first-hand information on agricultural projects underway here.

The AOAD, an Arab League organisation, has completed research work and has just embarked on implementation of agricultural projects to ensure food supplies for all Arab countries, he added.

Dr. Zaki was received at Ramtha by Mr. Jum'a, the Ramtha district commissioner, the town's mayor, the director of agriculture in Irbid Governorate and a number of other officials.



Snow-covered cars decorate the Amman scene after Thursday night's heavy snowfall.

ALL ROADS OPEN AFTER HEAVY SNOW HITS JORDAN

AMMAN (JNA). — No casualties have been reported, and all roads are now open after Thursday's unusually heavy snowfall.

The Director of Public Security Maj-Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat said all roads were reopened as of 5:00 p.m. Friday.

He said precautionary measures had been taken after it was announced that a cold front would hit Jordan.

The directorate and all police stations are on the alert for any information from people needing immediate help.

There were no reports of any casualties or damage as a result of the snowfall.

Jordan's proposals on multinationals boosted

AMMAN (JNA). — The International Employers Organisation Friday reiterated its firm intention to adopt Jordan's proposals concerning multinational corporations and their relationship with the host-country, in which they operate.

These proposals, Director of Amman Chamber of Industry Ali Dajani said Friday, will be taken into consideration in the report the International Labour Organisation (ILO) will submit to the United Nations, which, in its turn, is to discuss a special charter to govern these companies.

The Amman Chamber of Industry sent a memorandum containing its proposals to the International Employers Organisation.

tion after sounding out the opinion of local businessmen on the subject.

The Jordanian proposals state that multinational corporations should provide more training opportunities for their locally-recruited employees. Countries hosting these companies should also be given guarantees that protect their essential economic interests and prevent any interference from such companies in the host-country's social and economic development programmes.

They also call on these companies not to organise business cartels and to allow the host-country to supervise their activities, in particular those which might enable them to control the host-country's economy.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| U.K. sterling | 571.0 | 577.0 |
| U.S. dollar | 332.0 | 334.0 |
| German mark | 139.2 | 139.6 |
| French franc | 66.9 | 67.2 |
| Swiss franc | 130.5 | 130.9 |
| Italian lira (for every 100) | 37.6 | 37.8 |
| Saudi riyal | 94.2 | 94.6 |
| Lebanese pound | 110.1 | 111.1 |
| Syrian pound | 82.1 | 82.6 |
| Iraqi dinar | 945.0 | 950.0 |
| Syrian pound | 82.1 | 82.6 |
| Iraqi dinar | 945.0 | 950.0 |
| Kuwaiti dinar | 1,152.0 | 1,160.0 |
| Egyptian pound | 450.0 | 470.0 |
| Libyan dinar | 800.0 | 830.0 |
| UAE dirham | 85.2 | 85.6 |

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NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Friday delegated the Chief Chamberlain, Prince Raad Ibn Zeid, to attend the funeral of one of Jordan's leading businessmen and industrialists, the late Tawfiq Kattan.

* MA'AN. — Construction of two mosques in the villages of Eil and Makhtoub, both in the Ma'an Governorate, has been completed at a cost of JD 9,000, the Waqf Director here said Friday. A building to house this town's Waqf Directorate has also been completed at a cost of JD 20,000, he added.

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Sensible investments in Western firms offer Arabs substantial profit

Arab investment in Western industry -- Iran's stake in Krupp's and Libya's interest in Fiat, for example -- has aroused comment and concern in some quarters. The deals have political and economic implications for both sides. Are they in the interest of the countries involved? Provided both sides approach the deals sensibly they could profit from them very substantially indeed.

LONDON (Gemin). — Are deals involving heavy investment by the oil-rich Arab states in Western industry beneficial to the countries concerned? Could investment in a particular firm interfere with that firm's industrial policies? Could such deals involve political side issues?

These questions are exciting interest and sometimes concern but it can be argued such interdependence can be a force for good.

In the boom days of 1974 and early 1975 when talk in the West was all about recycling the petrodollars, members of OPEC suddenly found they had vast cash surpluses to invest.

They bought government bonds and both the USA and Britain especially benefited from this. They lent money to the World Bank and the IMF. They increased spectacularly and generously their aid to the non-oil producing Third World. And they bought equities and more speculative private businesses.

In Britain Arab interests bought property and several deals, like the purchase of London's famous Dorchester Hotel, made headlines. London generally appeared to be the Western capital most favoured by Arabs with money to spend. This activity took place as a new scramble for contracts in the oil-rich Middle East got underway among the Western industrialised nations.

This was part of the phenomenon of the OPEC boom, something that the Western world would get used to. Since that time, however, the fortunes of

the oil states have changed considerably.

By the beginning of 1977 OPEC was not only divided by the Saudi decision not to raise its price beyond 5 per cent but continuing world recession as well as the coming onto stream of other oil resources (most notably North Sea oil). This meant that various producers, such as Iran, were cutting back drastically on their current budgets and modifying at least for the time being their long term development plans.

Investments in Western industrial enterprises are different in kind from other deals and have political and economic implications for both sides that are of a different order from the relationship that goes with the purchase of equities or government stock. Three examples are: Iran and Krupp; Libya and Fiat; and Kuwait in a joint enterprise with Romania to build a refinery.

In 1974 the Iranian National Steel Industries Corporation bought a 25 per cent stake in Krupp's steelmaking subsidiary, Fried Krupp Huttenwerke. That deal included plans for 2,000 Iranians to be trained in various technical and engineering jobs (the figure for people being trained by the United Nations Development Organisation -- UNIDO -- for the whole developing world was only 500 at the time).

In West Germany the deal led inevitably to questions about the extent to which the huge industrial complex would be subject to foreign interference. Perhaps the most important aspect of the deal for

Iran was the fact that she had purchased on-the-spot know-how which could be exported back home rather than simply having acquired investment shares.

Then in 1976 Iran made a second purchase: This time a 25 per cent stake in Fried Krupp, the parent company of the Krupp group. This is the first time in the history of the 165-year-old company that any outsider has taken a stake in the parent company.

The deal raised a number of important questions for the West German government. Although Bonn welcomed the deal, government officials said that certain security aspects of it were under scrutiny. The purchase had to be approved by the Federal Monopolies Commission. The questions raised by a major foreign holding in so large and sensitive a concern as Krupp with its huge involvement in Western defence contracts are many and complex.

There are also social-political problems to be faced for Krupp employs nearly 80,000 people in West Germany: to what extent are their livelihoods likely to be affected by Iranian pressures? Iran now has two members on the Board of Twenty.

The level of West German concern was made explicit at the time the deal went through when Krupp's Chief Executive, Herr Berthold Beitz, said: "The Shah cannot now force us suddenly to produce weapons for him." Perhaps "suddenly" was the operative word.

What has become clear is the fact that Iran has obtained a major stake in an area of vital industrial know-how and that she has sufficient influence in it at least to have a powerful effect upon policy.

The second and much more recent case was only concluded in December 1976: This concerned the Libyan government's purchase of a 9.6 per cent stake in Fiat. Fiat is Europe's third largest car maker and the initial Libyan stake,

costing £250 million, is possibly only a start.

According to the agreement Libya may purchase more shares from 1978 onwards at a low price so that eventually she may come to own 20 per cent of the company which is the largest private company in Italy. The company urgently needed the injection of funds: the government approved although unions and leftwing politicians were not so happy.

This is the first major overseas investment for Libya (apart from a dockyard project in Malta) and is comparable in scope to the Iran-Krupp deal. Libya will take two out

of fifteen seats on the Fiat board. There was an immediate storm in Italy involving the newspaper, La Stampa, also owned by Fiat; the paper feared there would be interference with its liberty to express opinions contrary to Libyan interests and policies.

Following the deal the chairman of the Libya Arab Foreign Bank, Abdullahi Saudi, said that Libya was on the lookout for other such opportunities and that "we believe this type of transaction should be repeated."

He made a key point when he suggested that such a deal could lead to a moderation in the

rise of the price of oil since in the past such rises had followed increases in the price of manufactured goods (such as Fiat cars) to the oil producers.

If an oil producer like Libya now had a stake in a manufacturing enterprise in a consumer country this might influence the extent to which it increased prices in the future. The political implications of this suggestion are clearly enormous.

Thirdly, Kuwait has already purchased a minority interest in West Germany's Daimler-Benz. Now it is considering building a refinery and associated petrochemical facilities in Romania. If it goes through this deal will involve Kuwait in the downstream end of the oil business in partnership with a Communist country where crude oil for the refinery and take a possible 20 per cent stake in the venture as well, probably by putting up a share of the necessary capital.

These deals are important for three reasons. They involve the oil states in major industrial enterprises in the consumer countries where, inevitably, they will come to have at least some influence upon industrial policies.

They ought to ensure a real exchange of know-how through the training of personnel from the oil states which may well turn out to be the biggest long term advantage of all. And potentially they represent a far more lasting involvement than any portfolio investments can so help to tie in oil countries to Western capitalist interests.

For their part the industrialised nations must ask how much they welcome such interdependence for that is what comes down to. Both sides -- if they approach such deals sensibly and without becoming involved in too many political side issues -- could profit from them very substantially indeed.

President Stevens of Sierra Leone hangs on despite repeated uprisings

President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone has declared a state of emergency after clashes between students and supporters of the president. He has had trouble before -- party squabbles, attempted coups, exile. But after two years of peace he was emerging as a true father of his nation. Alan Rake reports from Freetown on the country's economic troubles which were the main cause of the clashes.

FREETOWN. (Gemin) — Sierra Leone will long remember the events of January 29, 1977, for that was the day of the first clashes between university students and the supporters of President Siaka Stevens.

Everything started at one of those traditional rituals for which Sierra Leone has long been famous. Dr. Stevens, in his capacity as Chancellor, was addressing the congregation of the University of Sierra Leone, Africa's oldest university which is currently celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Then it all began. Students started booing and whistling and with pre-arranged thoroughness produced placards demanding the resignation of the president.

Nothing like this had happened in Sierra Leone since the coup attempts of July 1974. Since then the country had been as quiet as a Freetown graveyard. President Stevens had won his struggle for the presidency and put his seal on it by his unopposed re-election for a five-year term in April 1975. Gradually he had released all political detainees. He was also planning to reduce the size of parliament and cut down on the number of ministers as part of a nationwide economy drive. And he was quite prepared to go to the nation on this issue had his back bench MPs, fearful of losing their seats, not persuaded

him to postpone elections until they were due in 1978.

He would have liked to press ahead with electoral reform by appealing to the people and allowing them that the MPs and ministers must make sacrifices too, but he has never been one to force his views through.

"As has always been my policy," he told me only five days before the riots, "it is not a matter in which I would like to dictate to the people. I am in close consultation with my ministers, the members in parliament and the people in the country to see the easiest way in which we can make any change that is desirable."

He knew that any move to reduce the numbers of MPs or ministers would be popular with the masses who are jealous of their privileges, but he likes to govern by consensus. That has been his style since he assumed the presidency in 1971.

But consensus rule was rudely shattered on January 29. The Monday after the students had treated their President with totally un-Sierr Leonean impoliteness came the All Peoples Congress party back-lash.

The party Central Committee met and the Youth League filed six buses and drove to the university. The students were soon put to flight and the Youth League smashed its way into the campus.



By Tuesday it was reported that two students had died and many more were injured. Fanatical party supporters then attacked two secondary schools, beating up pupils and staff and took them to the police where they were briefly detained.

This brought the students on to the streets of Freetown, chanting, throwing stones, and attempting to storm the picturesque, white painted state house building which stands on one of Freetown's small hills. They were stopped by the police. The next day President Stevens declared a state of emergency.

An unhappy calm has since returned to Freetown, but things will never be the same again. President Stevens, now in his seventy-first year, finds that he has won all the old political battles, survived all the coups and counter-coups and was well on his way to achieving government by consensus when suddenly came this entirely new challenge.

This time it came not from

the tired old politicians of the post-independence decade, but from young men and women who have their own ideas about the way things should be run. Under the tumult they are raising awkward questions. Why is the economy so much in foreign hands? Why is inflation soaring? Why is the economy nearly bankrupt? Why is there so much corruption among top men?

Stevens is in a near-impossible position. The Sierra Leone economy is practically broke, with reserves down to one month's imports, with a deficit balance of payments and with government itself unable to balance its budget.

Everything has gone against the country in recent years. Deico, the only iron ore mine, has been finally closed; diamond production is now in long term decline, with the big state-owned diamond company, Diango, having to nearly halve its production target for next year.

Oil prices have more than tripled and the country now faces oil bills of 25 million Leones (£12.5m.) a year, nearly 20 per cent of the total import bill. Inflation is rising at 26 per cent in Freetown.

Government debt on contract finance schemes is rising year by year. Outstanding debt was only £15.5 million in 1974 but £31 million at the end of 1976. Other external debt on government loans is also mounting fast and there will be a big bulge in debt repayment schedules in the next few years.

This is a critical situation and the only organisations remotely likely to have enough cash to put matters right are the World Bank and the IMF. Indeed they

have been watching the situation closely with successive missions visiting the country. Their message is clear. If Sierra Leone curbs spending and puts its economic house in order there won't be a stand-by credits or major loan.

Already Dr. Stevens has some way to meet their demands. He has made great efforts to improve tax collection, cut back government expenditure and economise on imports.

All ministries have been ordered to reduce their budgets by 15 per cent. The IMF also asked for a 25 per cent cut in the civil service and for devaluation.

President Stevens has rejected these last demands. It would be politically impossible for him to sack 25 per cent of the civil servants. He told me that best he can do is reduce the number by natural wastage, for devaluation, he said, his people simply would not understand the meaning of the word. But they do understand that is inflationary. Sierra Leone already had effective inflation as sterling (linked rigidly to the Leone) has plunged. This means that her imports from all parts of the world have risen in value by as much as 25 per cent over the last year.

Inflation is one of the specific points which the students were complaining about. Lack of job prospects in a contracting economy was another. And so was the corruption and high living of the fat cats the top.

President Stevens has no headaches, but he is a man of gentle resolution. No challenge in his long career has defied him yet.

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- 2 - The scope of work includes four-level building with offices, laboratory and industrial floors to be completed within 12 months, including heating, plumbing air conditioning, water treatment, electrical equipment, etc. (Bulk earth moving excluded).
- 3 - An information meeting with the French consultants will be organised around the middle of March and interested contractors can attend this meeting when it is announced.
- 4 - Contractors interested in bidding for this project may obtain the "Pre-qualification Questionnaire" from the J.N.G.C. office, Shmeisani, Amman, Tel. 61177 during normal working hours starting March 7, 1977.

This form should be completed and submitted in three copies with any other relevant data addressed to:

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J.N.G.C.
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This submission should be received not later than 12 noon on Wednesday March 23, 1977.

- 5 - The plans of the required work are available for inspection at the offices of J.N.G.C. Amman, Jordan.

- 6 - J.N.G.C. will notify contractors who have been pre-qualified to bid for the work and supply them with information regarding the preparation of bids. Reasons for rejection of applicants for pre-qualification will not be given.

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Libyan changes afford more power for people

By Andrew Waller

BEIRUT, March 4 (R). — Libya's decision to abolish its top ruling body in favour of a General People's Committee reflects the aspiration of its leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi for direct people's rule.

The Libyan General People's Congress, meeting in the southern town of Sabha, decided Wednesday night to abolish the Revolutionary Command Council — which has ruled the country since the 1969 coup ousting King Idris.

The congress also decided to change the country's name from the Libyan Arab People's Republic to "the People's Socialist Libyan Arab Public."

Col. Qadhafi, described by the congress as "the revolutionary, intellectual and master leader," has long advocated direct rule by his two million countrymen, and the formation of a General Secretariat, General People's Committee and General People's Congress appeared to be a step in this direction.

However it was not immediately clear just how the changes would affect the face of

Libya, a largely desert country which grew rich from oil little more than a decade ago.

The membership of the General People's Committee is almost the same as the former Council of Ministers.

Announcing the resolutions, Maj. Abdul Salam Jalloud, who has been prime minister and has now become one of Col. Qadhafi's four colleagues on the General Secretariat, said the Quran would form the basis of law and legislation.

This fits into the Libyan leader's views, though the Libyan socialist interpretation of Islam is totally contrary to that of monarchist Saudi Arabia, the other Arab nation proclaiming Islam as the sole basis of its law.

The congress was attended by Cuban leader Fidel Castro, which gave it impeccable revolutionary credentials and could help Col. Qadhafi to win support for his country in some of the capitals south of the Sahara.

The meeting came at a time when Libya is faced with signs of growing unity among its less radical Arab opponents and critics.

Sudanese leader Jaafar Nimeiri, who has frequently accused Libya and Ethiopia of interfering in his country's affairs, has now taken his country into a joint Syrian-Egyptian political command set up last December.

This move, which emerged at a summit meeting between the three countries' leaders in Khartoum last week, was seen as by a Saudi Arabian-backed initiative aimed partly at isolating Libya.

While the Sabha congress concentrated on domestic affairs, the adoption of a political system at home tailored to its theories may give Col. Qadhafi more freedom to devote his energies to foreign policy.

The decision to hold the congress in Sabha, rather than the capital Tripoli or the old royal capital of Benghazi, both traditional rivals, was regarded as significant.

Col. Qadhafi, born of nomad parents in 1942, later went to school in Sabha, and the decision to hold the important congress there was seen as stressing his abiding attachment to the ways and people of the desert.

Dial 900-242-1611 and "Ask President Carter"

WASHINGTON, March 4 (R). — If Americans want to talk to President Carter tomorrow, they need only dial 900-242-1611 — and hope for the best.

The relatively few callers who get through to the president will have a chance to ask him a question on whatever subject they choose, and their conversations with him will be broadcast on a national radio network.

The one-hour call-in show is part of an effort by the Carter administration to put a human face on the trappings and workings of the presidency.

It grew out of Mr. Carter's campaign promise that he would involve the public more closely in the shaping of government policy.

The idea for tomorrow's radio show, called "Ask President Carter," resembles the open-house sessions he held while governor of Georgia.

Mr. Carter will be seated in his Oval Office during the CBS show alongside veteran broadcaster Walter Cronkite, who will act as moderator.

The programme is a complicated technical undertaking. The giant American Telephone and Telegraph Company (ATT) has programmed computers in New Jersey to give callers in all 50 states an equal chance of getting through. But the chances of getting a call through to the cost-free number are slim.

If a caller does get through, someone will take the name and number and then ring back. A White House spokesman said that procedure was designed to cut down crank calls.

One possibility is that there will be a seven-second transmission delay between the caller's conversation and the broadcast, giving CBS time to cut out anything offensive.

The programme is not expected to bring any startling statements by Mr. Carter but he has demonstrated in the few weeks he has been in office that he is prepared to speak his mind at any time, commenting on important issues on unlikely occasions — such as visits to old neighbours in his home town of Plains, Georgia, or during get-acquainted tours of government departments.

Indian political detainees to stage hunger strike, opposition leader say

NEW DELHI, March 4 (Agencies). — The Indian opposition said today thousands of political detainees would stage a one-day hunger strike next Thursday to draw attention to their plight.

Opposition leader Jayaprakash Narayan said in a statement that their continued detention in jail without trial proved that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's claim to have relaxed the 20-month-old state of emergency was a "mockery".

Mrs. Gandhi announced the relaxation of the emergency last January when she called the general election in which polling takes place from March 16 to 20.

Mr. Narayan, veteran pacifist reformer who has withdrawn from active campaigning because of ill-health, said today in announcing the planned protest by detainees: "free and fair elections are inconceivable under these circumstances."

No official figures for the number of political detainees held under the Maintenance of In-

ternal Security Act (MISA) are available. The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Ohm Mehta, said recently that most had been released except those belonging to banned organisations or those against whom criminal charges were pending.

Mr. Narayan also asked the public to observe a hunger strike the same day "in order to express their solidarity with their brethren behind bars."

The opposition leader, a kidney patient, is now in a Bombay hospital for dialysis treatment.

A Janata Party spokesman said that there were 15,000 detainees still in jail and were

members of various organisations such as the extreme-left Volunteer Corp (Ashwamekha Sangh) the atical-Hindu sect of "Marg", Naxalites and others.

The spokesman further tested the claim of the government that it had cited the state government release all political prisoners and that if there was any in acting, it was the ability of the states.

He said over 1,000 were still in detention Uttar Pradesh State. He said the state government has an opposition delegation on the instructions of the government.

No French military bases in Djibouti conference decide

PARIS, March 4 (R). — Representatives from the French African territory of the Afars and the Issas (Djibouti) yesterday ruled out France having a military base if the Red Sea enclave becomes independent later this year.

But representatives of the enclave agreed on cooperation with France on defence and other matters after independence.

France now has about 6,000 men in and around Djibouti, capital of the territory, but has made it known it was not interested in keeping a base there.

The question of a base was decided at a conference which began on Monday to consider steps towards independence.

The people of the last French territory in Africa will vote in an independence referendum on April 24. If, as is generally expected, a majority is in favour, independence will be proclaimed before June 30.

A spokesman for the territory's delegations at the conference yesterday said they all wanted their future state to cooperate with France, including defence. "But they are also

unanimous in refusing the right to keep a base with extra-territorial status," he said.

The conference set up commissions to draft constitution agreements with France. One will deal with economic, financial, technical and cooperation.

The second commission discusses military questions including the organisation, army for the future state, a possible defence agreement with France.

The third will tackle the problem of the French railway linking Ababa and Djibouti.

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THIRD FLOOR

Wide variety of lower bedsheets, blankets and CANNON bedcovers.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Bahrain supports Saudi Arabia in effort to blacklist swindling companies

BAHRAIN, March 4 (R). — Saudi Arabia is trying to marshal support from other Gulf oil-producing states to blacklist foreign companies believed to be conspiring to inflate prices, informed sources said here today.

Editorial comment — p. 2 —

The campaign gained immediate acceptance in Bahrain where it was announced after talks yesterday with the Saudi minister of industry and electric power that the two countries had decided to coordinate

their policies for buying power equipment.

An official statement after the talks here between the visiting Saudi Minister, Dr. Ghazi Al Qussabi, and his Bahraini opposite number, Mr. Majid Al Jishi, said the aim was "to obtain reasonable prices for the region's purchases from the outside world after it had become clear that it was paying too much for the projects it undertakes."

The statement said the two countries would also seek to coordinate their efforts with other states in the region to "pick out the companies which

quote reasonable prices."

The sources said Dr. Al Qussabi was leading the effort to keep out international companies which are believed by Saudi Arabia to have resorted to price-fixing among themselves in an attempt to exploit the region's desire for speedy economic progress.

After cancelling a number of international bids for electricity and other projects worth more than \$2 billion, the Saudi government last month issued a warning that it would blacklist companies which persisted in inflating prices.

Dr. Al Qussabi, in his capacity as Chairman of the Saudi General Electricity Organisation, rejected tenders from eight foreign companies for electrification projects in several Saudi provinces. He said the quoted costs were much higher than the organisation's own estimates.

The companies were from the United States, Britain, West Germany, Switzerland and Japan. Dr. Al Qussabi has since awarded some of the same contracts to Pakistani companies to show that Saudi Arabia was prepared to look outside the major industrialised states for its needs, the sources said.

Interesting pilot to fly with

MONTREAL, March 4 (R). — A Canadian French-speaking pilot has told a government inquiry here that he flew in Quebec airspace for years without understanding a word of what English-speaking air traffic controllers were telling him.

Captain Pierre Rivest said: "I would answer 'roger' whenever they said something to me, look around for a runway which seemed to be active and land. This type of confusion still exists today," he Wednesday told a Federal Commission of Inquiry on bi-lingualism in air-to-ground communications.

Sweden offers conference draft of new treaty to ban nuclear underground tests

By Ronald Farquhar

GENEVA, March 4 (R). — Sweden yesterday presented the 30-nation Geneva Disarmament Conference with a draft treaty to ban underground nuclear-weapon tests — the second tabled at the talks in just over a week — and called for urgent negotiations on the document.

The Swedish text diverged on several points from a draft submitted by the Soviet Union last Tuesday for a test ban — a major issue on which delegations expect the conference to make progress at last, after years of deadlock.

But Swedish delegate Mrs Inga Thorsson told reporters after yesterday's session she believed the Russians did not consider the differences "overwhelming".

U.S. delegation leader Howard Meyers welcomed the Swedish move, although he told the conference the U.S. could not comment on the draft at present because President Carter's administration was still considering its position on an underground test ban.

Mr. Carter has said he wants to reach agreement soon with the Soviet Union to ban tests below ground, possibly for an initial period of three or four years.

Mrs. Thorsson described as "a very great step forward" a provision in last week's Soviet draft which the Russians say is intended to meet a U.S. demand for foreign inspections at sites of suspect underground disturbances to make sure

they are not clandestine tests.

This issue has been the main obstacle to efforts over the past 13 years by the conference to extend an existing ban on nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, outer space and under water to blasts below ground.

The 10-article Swedish draft, like the Soviet text, would allow "voluntary" inspection of sites at the request of a treaty state, provided the country whose territory is being inspected agrees.

Mrs. Thorsson said the two top nuclear powers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, should take the lead in negotiating an underground test ban without waiting to be joined by other nuclear-weapon states — China and France — which do not participate in the Geneva conference.

The Swedish draft would allow the U.S. and the Soviet Union a transitional period within which they would phase out underground testing and the pact would come into force when the two superpowers ended all tests.

The Swedish proposal also included an article allowing the treaty to become effective even if some states did not join it within a certain number of years.

This was one of the main differences from the Soviet draft, which stipulated that all nuclear-weapon states must sign and ratify the pact before it could take effect.

However, Soviet delegate Viktor Likhachev conceded last week that the Geneva conference could go ahead with "preparations" for a treaty even though China and France were not taking part.

Carter's agricultural policy is conservationist

By Georges Deschodt

WASHINGTON, March 4. (AFP). — Patterns in U.S. agriculture will be less influenced by free market considerations under President Carter than under former President Gerald Ford, judging by current tendencies.

Mr. Robert Bergland said just before he took over as Secretary of Agriculture that he would like to see more moderate fluctuations in the market rates for farm produce.

His attitude at the present time in the matter of corn and sugar seems to confirm this desire for more orderly market conditions.

A few days ago, for example, Mr. Bergland suggested a U.S.-Canadian wheat deal for the fixing of minimum prices, and he envisaged the possibility of setting up a wheat cartel run by the two North American countries.

His opposite number on the Canadian side, Mr. Otto Lang, reacted in a cautious manner. He said the two countries must avoid a price war, and did not rule out an understanding between them if other countries did not want to cooperate on market stabilisation.

He hoped such cooperation would be obtained from other

producer and consumer nations.

These remarks should be set against the background of North American dominance in corn exports. In the current year ending next June the U.S. and Canada will account for 70 per cent of world wheat exports. Respectively 29,700,000 and 12,500,000 tons out of a total 67,000,000 tons, according to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture figures.

The underlying aim of the American administration is to guarantee the income of U.S. farmers in a difficult period. Rates fell some 40 per cent in the second half of last year, and there seems little chance of a recovery in prices for the moment.

Crops have suffered from cold and drought this winter, but the fall in winter wheat output needs to be set against a rise in stocks, which are emerging at around 30 million tons against 18,000,000 tons last July.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in its last bulletin that crop prospects were excellent in virtually all the countries in the world's northern hemisphere. This should normally mean a decline in world trade next season.

As regards sugar, heavy war-

ld crops in the past two years have weighed on market rates, with U.S. beet and cane growers currently saying that they cannot make a profit.

The U.S. government is seeking ways of maintaining their income, and is thinking along the lines of guaranteed prices and import curbs.

The Treasury and State Departments are none too happy at this prospect. The Treasury fears that guaranteed prices will worsen the budget deficit and the State Department is against protection vis-a-vis other countries.

The problem has become more complex with the arrival on the market of maize syrups, a replacement for sugar which won popularity during the 1974 sugar price rise.

Some market experts think that a further increase in the price of sugar would give a new incentive to maize syrup manufacturers.

It is more than likely that the U.S. government will avoid a hasty move.

Meanwhile the lower sugar rates have led the secretary of agriculture to recommend U.S. presence in London this spring when an international sugar agreement is negotiated.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices managed another steady gain Friday on the New York stock exchange, where the industrial average closed nearly five points higher, returning above the 950 level.

Trading, however, remained moderate. Investors were apparently encouraged to see that the rise in unemployment announced for February (from 7.3 to 7.5 per cent), which had been anticipated by the market, was not so sharp. Better news on the monetary front, where the Fed reported a decline in the money supply, also helped the market.

Gainers outnumbered losers at the bell by a wide 878 to best performances from department store, airline and tobacco issues. Westinghouse rose 1/2 to 18-1/8 in active trading.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 953.46, a gain of 4.62 points; Transp at 224.14, a gain of 0.14; utilities at 107.23, a gain of 0.70. 18,950,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,710,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed easier Friday after a quiet session. Selling was prompted by a prominent trade union leader's call for a prices freeze, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 4.7 at 408.0.

Government bonds fell up to 5/8 point while equity leaders eased between a penny and 5p.

Gold finished higher on balance, with net rises ranging to 50p. Dollar stocks firmed and Australians eased. Tea shares made further headway while tins moved higher on free market considerations.

Hawker finished 8p down while falls of 4p to 6p were seen in Guest Keen, Turner and Newall, ICI, Tube Investments, Vickers and EMI.

Midland Bank ended 7p up after results but other banks eased between 2p and 7p. Oils were mixed with small gains scored by B.P. and Shell.

Racal Electronics was in demand again and finished 5p up at 307.

Price of gold closed in London Friday at \$145.40/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, March 4 (R). — The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday agreed by 252 votes to 161 to scrap plans for a new nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. President Carter had asked that \$81.6 million already appropriated for the project should not be spent on the Nimitz-class vessel. The House supported his call for reliance on smaller, conventionally-powered carriers.

WASHINGTON, March 4 (R). — The Carter administration yesterday supported legislation to deter oil spills off the U.S. coastline by tankers and offshore oil drilling operations. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus told the House of Representatives Special Committee of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) that the administration favoured a proposed comprehensive bill that would make oil tanker operators liable for damages for oil spills off the American coast. The committee is considering an offshore energy production bill which, among other things, would make tanker operators responsible for oil spill damage of up to \$35 million. Mr. Andrus said the legislation, prompted by a rash of oil spills in recent months off the U.S. coast, would be a "powerful incentive for responsible management" by tanker operators.

NDJAMENA, March 4 (R). — Oil deposits discovered in Chad do not yet justify the construction of a pipeline to the coast, officials of the U.S. Continental Oil Company (CONOCO) said here. A top-level delegation from CONOCO, which has a monopoly of oil exploration in Chad, was received by head of state Gen. Felix Malloum yesterday. After the meeting, the officials said that, because existing known deposits were not considered "commercial", the company would not build a pipeline but instead was going ahead with a mini-refinery in Ndjamena to supply Chad's domestic fuel needs. They did not rule out, however, the possibility that the refinery would produce a surplus which could be exported.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

VIENNA, March 4 (R). — Top-ranking officials from nine ruling Communist Parties wound up two days of talks in Sofia yesterday to coordinating ideology in the face of challenges from dissidents in Eastern Europe and "Euro-Communist" movement in the West. Informed sources said the meeting — the third Soviet-bloc ideological conference in six months — underlined the Kremlin's desire to close ranks at a time of increasing activity by the West European Communist Parties of Italy, France and Spain.

TEL AVIV, March 4 (AFP). — A young Dutch woman was sentenced here yesterday to six years' imprisonment on charges of spying for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Miss Ludvinnia Janssen was found guilty on Tuesday of attempting to gather information which it was said would enable the PFLP to hijack Israeli airliners.

KHARTOUM, March 4 (R). — President Jaafar Nimeiri said yesterday that over a million refugees from the 16-year civil war in southern Sudan, which ended five years ago yesterday, had been resettled in their original home towns. Speaking at a rally in the southern regional capital of Juba to mark the signing of the Addis Ababa agreement on March 3, 1972, President Nimeiri said the provisions of the agreement had been fulfilled to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

HANOI, March 4 (AFP). — Vietnam is ready to examine and settle outstanding problems with the United States, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday in confirming the forthcoming visit of a U.S. mission. The delegation, to be headed by United Auto Workers Union leader Leonard Woodcock, is to arrive on March 12 to discuss with Vietnam the problem of U.S. wartime missing in action, and American aid to Vietnam post-war reconstruction.

WARSAW, March 4 (AFP). — French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud told his Polish opposite number yesterday that harassment of human rights dissidents was not in keeping with the Helsinki agreement. Mr. de Guiringaud made the comment during a meeting with Polish Foreign Minister Emil Wojtaszek, French sources said.

Key to the heart of the Middle East.

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SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE MAP

هكذا صنع القليل